

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

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FOR WORTZEL FROM SCHMIDT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL - INFORMAL

1. SCOTTY RESTON CALLED ME EVENING OF FEBRUARY 22 TO LET US KNOW THAT HE DEFINITELY WOULD BE GOING TO YUGOSLAVIA OVER THE COMING WEEKEND TO DO AN INTERVIEW WITH TITO. ACCORDING TO HIM, BELOVSKI HAS CONFIRMED THAT TITO HAS AGREED TO GRANT AN INTERVIEW -- PRESUMABLY SOMETIME NEXT WEEK, BUT RESTON IS NOT SURE EXACTLY WHEN OR WHERE. HE THINKS IT PROBABLY WILL BE IN DUBROVNIK.

2. RESTON SAID HE AND HIS WIFE (NO ONE WILL ACCOMPANY THEM FROM HERE) WILL LEAVE WASHINGTON ON FEBRUARY 25 VIA PAN AM, TRANSIT FRANKFURT, AND ARRIVE IN BELGRADE ON PAN AM AT 1215 ON FEBRUARY 26. I REITERATED TO HIM THE AMBASSADOR'S INVITATION TO STAY AT THE RESIDENCE, BUT RESTON SAID HE WAS
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VERY RELUCTANT TO IMPOSE ON THE EAGLEBURGERS, ESPECIALLY SINCE AT LEAST THE AMBASSADOR WOULD BE LEAVING THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR WASHINGTON. HE SAID ANDELMAN'S OFFICE HAD MADE RESERVATIONS FOR THEM AT THE MOSKVA.

3. IN RESPONSE TO HIS REQUEST, I DID MY BEST TO GIVE RESTON SOME IDEAS ABOUT POSSIBLE LINES OF INQUIRY FOR THE

INTERVIEW AND TO ANSWER HIS SPECIFIC QUESTIONS. (WE ALSO

HAD EARLIER PASSED TO HIM VIA BILL LUERS AND DAVID BINDER A LIST OF POSSIBLE QUESTIONS.) RESTON SAID HE PLANS TO TAKE THE LONG VIEW AND APPROACH TITO AS "THE LAST OF THE GIANTS OF WORLD WAR II" RATHER THAN GET TOO TIED UP IN IMMEDIATE ISSUES. I SUGGESTED THAT TITO'S VIEWS WOULD CERTAINLY BE OF INTEREST ON SUCH ISSUES AS THE FUTURE OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS, EUROCOMMUNISM AND VARIOUS "ROADS TO SOCIALISM", NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS, AND, OF COURSE, THE FUTURE OF YUGOSLAVIA. RESTON ASKED ME TO INFORM THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH HIM TO GET HIS VIEWS ON ALL OF THIS AND MORE DURING THE AFTERNOON OR EVENING OF FEBRUARY 26. HE ALSO ASKED ABOUT MEETING WITH DISSIDENTS. I SUGGESTED THAT ALTHOUGH UNDER OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES IT MIGHT NOT MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE TO THE YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES, IN THIS INSTANCE SINCE HE WAS GOING FOR EXPRESS PURPOSE OF INTERVIEW WITH TITO, SUCH EFFORTS MIGHT THROW A MONKEY WRENCH INTO THE WORKS. I SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, THAT HIS BEST ADVICE ON THIS POINT WOULD BE HAD FROM THE AMBASSADOR.

4. ADDENDUM. FOLLOWING THE AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON FEBRUARY 23 TO DARRYL, I SPOKE TO RESTON AGAIN. HE AGREED TO ACCEPT THE AMBASSADOR'S INVITATION TO STAY AT THE RESIDENCE AND ALSO FOR DINNER SUNDAY EVENING. HE STILL LOOKS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FORWARD TO OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE A PRIVATE TALK AT SOME POINT. VANCE

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